THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) There is no proposal at present to reduce the interest rate on Employees Provident Fund.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Employment rate**

3056. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rate of employment is steadily on the decline during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, year-wise and major sector-wise since 1998;

(c) whether the reasons for the unemployment have been identified and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to reverse the trend and generate more employment opportunities in the various sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Organisation's (NSSO), surveys carried out during 1993-94 and 1999-2000, estimated employment in the organised and unorganised sectors for major States and All India on usual status basis are given in the Annexure.

(d) Main reason was that economy did not grow as expected and there was a decline in the job creating capacity of the growth observed in the economy.

(e) The approach to Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

Government is also implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. These include